

REMARKS

Claims 7, 8, 12-14, and 18-21 stand rejected, and Claims 9-11 are objected to. As set forth above, Claims 7, 18, and 20 have been amended, and Claim 14 has been canceled. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the Claims 7, 8, 12, 13 and 18-21 is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claim 14 has been objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form. The cancellation of Claim 14 has obviated the objection, and, as such, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and § 103(a)

Claims 7-8, 12-14, and 18-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Documents C or E of AIMS of the Information Disclosure Statement filed July 7, 2000. Claim 21 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Document C or E in view of Document D of AIMS.

The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed. However, it is submitted that the Examiner's rejections have been rendered moot by the amendments to independent Claims 7 and 18, which have been made in accordance with the Examiner's proposed claim language. The Examiner is thanked for proposing claim language that the Examiner considered patentably distinguishable over the art of record. In view of these amendments, withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 7-8, 12-14, and 18-21 under §§ 102(b) and 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner is thanked for indicating the allowability of Claims 9-11 if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, it is believed that the amendment to independent Claim 7, from which Claims 9-11 depend, has obviated the need to rewrite Claims 9-11.

Supplemental Reissue Oath/Declaration Requirement

The Examiner has rejected the claims as being based upon a defective reissue oath/declaration under 35 U.S.C. § 251 and has required receipt of a supplemental reissue oath/declaration before the application can be allowed. To that end, a Supplemental Reissue Oath/Declaration executed by the reissue applicant, AIMS International, Inc., is submitted herewith.

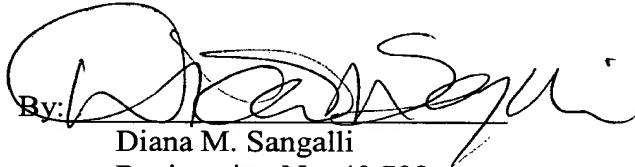
Surrender of Original Patent

The original Letters Patent accompanies this Reply and Amendment and has been surrendered.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the submission of the Supplemental Reissue Oath/Declaration, and the surrender of the original Letters Patent, it is believed that all claims pending in the application are now in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. In the event that minor claim amendments or further documentation are necessary to meet formal requirements, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully Submitted,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8(A)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. ET883324975US, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on February 26, 2003.

Signature:


Naomi Serbantez